

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04

OMB-01 EUR-25 NIC-01 OPR-02 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 DOTE-00 USSS-00 RSR-01 /161 W

----- 020367

P R 062252Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5113

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 3493

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI PINT PINS

SUBJ: CABINET STAY ON

REF: SANTIAGO 3477

1. SUMMARY. PRES. ALLENDE EXPLICITLY DENIED CABINET ANY CABINET RESIDNATIONS PENDING. INVESTIGATION DIRECTOR JOIGNANT CLAIMED ARAYA MURDER CASE HAD BEEN ALMOST COMPLETELY SOLVED AND EXTREME RIGHTISTS WERE CULPRITS, BUT AIR FORCE GEN NICANOR DIAZ WHO IS HEADING INVESTIGATION CLAIMED CASE IS DEFINITELY NOT SOLVED. BUS AND TRUCK STRIKE CONTINUED, AS CUT REITERATED ITS CALL FOR STRONG ANTI-STRIKE MEASURES AND ANNOUNCED PRO-GOVT. RALLIES FOR NEXT THURSDAY. END SUMMARY

2. IN VIEW OF CONFUSING REPORTS ON WHETHER CABINET RESIGNED (REFTEL AND USDAO DATT 499 DTG 051313Z AUG 73), PRES. ALLENDE ISSUED DECLARATION ACKNOWLEDGING BRIONES, SPEAKING FOR CABINET, HAD OFFERED RESIGNATION BUT ADDING THAT "NO MINISTERS
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HAVE RESIGNED NOR ARE THEY WORKING AS "RESIGNEES"

(DIMISIONARIOS); THE CABINET CONTINUES EXERCISING ITS FULL FUNCTIONS." STATEMENT MAKES THINGS MORE DIFFICULT FOR PDC - AS THEY ARE NOT IN POSITION OF HAVING THEIR DEMAND FOR MILITARY CABINET PRETTY CLEARLY REBUFFED.

3. CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AND SPECULATION AROSE OVER WEEK-END WITH TELEVISED ANNOUNCEMENT BY INVESTIGATIONS DEPT DIRECTOR ALFREDO JOIGNANT (SOCIALIST) THAT MURDER OF NAVAL AIDE ARAYA WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY SOLVED. JOIGNANT REPORTED ARREST OF FOUR BROTHERS (REFTEL), CLAIMING THEY BELONGED TO PN'S ROLANDO MATUS BRIGADE, A CHARGE HOTLY DENIED BY PN. THREE OF FOUR SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED, PARTLY DUE TO ENERGETIC REPRESENTATIONS FROM PN'S SENATOR FERNANDO OCHAGAVIA (WHO WAS DULY CASTIGATED BY PRO-GOVT PRESS FOR HIS EFFORTS), BUT REMAINING BROTHER, MARIO ROJAS ZEGERS, WAS FORMALLY CHARGED. JOIGNANT ALSO LISTED NAMES OF OTHER PERSONS BEING SOUGHT, ONE OF WHOME SUBSEQUENTLY SURRENDERED AND IS BEING INTERROGATED. JOIGNANT CLAIMED ALLENDE HAD AWARDED HIS DEPT TEN MILLION ESCUDO GOVT REWARD FOR BREAKING CASE.

4. JOIGNANT STATEMENTS WERE SHARPLY REPUDIATED BY AIR FORCE GEN. NICANOR DIAZ, HEAD OF JOINT TEAM INVESTIGATING ARAYA MURDER. ALTHOUGH ACKNOWLEDGING DETENTION OF NEW SUSPECT, PRESUMABLY ROJAS, GEN. DIAZ STATED FLATLY CASE HAS NOT BEEN SOLVED AND INVESTIGATION CONTINUES. ORIGINAL SUSPECT RIQUELME STILL BEING HELD. CONFUSION ON CULPRITS HAS LED TO INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN IN UP PRESS BLAMING ARAYA MURDER ON EXTREME RIGHT AND EQUALLY INTENSE BARRAGE FROM OPPOSITION MEDIA BLAMING EXTREME LEFT WITH POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FROM FOREIGNERS, ESPECIALLY CUBANS.

5. BUS AND TRUCK STRIKE CONTINUES. SOME PRIVATE BUSES AND A FEW TAXIS ARE OPERATING IN SANTIAGO TODAY, HOWEVER. GOVT FORMED "CENTRAL OPERATING COMMAND" UNDER MINFINANCE FLORES TO COORDINATE ANTI-STRIKE PLANNING AND ACTION. CUT IS ISSUING STEADY STREAM OF STATEMENTS CALLING FOR TOTAL WORKER MOBILIZATION TO BREAK STRIKE, "VIGILANCE COMMITTEES" TO PROTECT WORKING VEHICLES AND STRATEGIC LOCATIONS, AND MORE REQUISITIONS OF NON-OPERATING VEHICLES. CUT ALSO CALLED FOR MAJOR RALLIES AUG 9 IN SANTIAGO AND ALL PROVINCIAL CAPITALS TO BACK GOVT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPLICIT IN SOME OF CUT DECLARATIONS WAS CRITICISM OF GOVT FOR NOT TAKING STRONGER MEASURES TO BREAK STRIKE. STRIKE-RELATED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE CONTINUE. LATEST INCLUDE BOMB BLAST AT HOME OF FATHER OF MINFINANCE FLORES, ANOTHER INCIDENT AT SAN BERNARDO IN WHICH 12 STRIKING TRUCKERS WERE ARRESTED AFTER STONING OPERATING VEHICLES, AND DEATH OF RAILROAD WORKER IN TEMUCO FROM A BEATING. DAVIS

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